

Ron Hochstetler



An internationally recognized leader in the lighter-than-air industry (LTA) Mr. Hochstetler has used his LTA expertise and industry contacts for the past 28 years to continuously promote the advancement of LTA technologies for government and commercial applications. Ron began his airship career in 1984 as a mechanic/assembler on the Piasecki Helistat program which developed a hybrid airship/helicopter for heavy lift applications. In 1985 he joined Airship Industries, providing technical support to the US Navy's YEZ-2A airship development program. During this time he also flew as an airship flight test engineer and managed a 22 person commercial airship tour. He joined Veda Inc., in 1990 to support the US Navy Airship Program office and in 1998 joined CargoLifter as a Senior Project Analyst locating critical airship technical reference documents to support the company's development of a 160 metric ton lift airship. For the past 12 years Ron has worked for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) where he currently supports the NASA Ames Research Center as an LTA subject matter expert (SME). Mr. Hochstetler has a Masters degree in Technology Management from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Technology from Purdue University. Ron is the former Chairman of the AIAA LTA Technical Committee and a current member of the British based Airship Association Council.